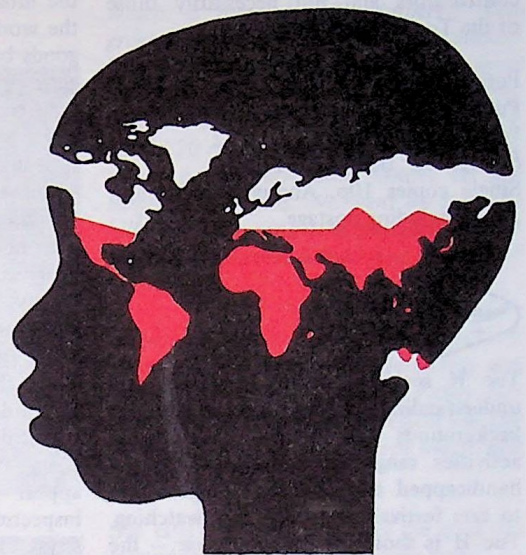


Point Three



The Toc H magazine
May 1983 10p



THE MAN OF THE HANDS

(pages 8-9)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Cover Picture

The cover picture shows a mother with leprosy who has infected her children. Hence the need for a vaccine – see pages eight and nine.

Personal View

'... On many a day of every year does a man remember what took place on that self-same day in some former year and chews the sweet or bitter herb of memory ...'

Alexander Smith

I love anniversaries for just that reason. The other day, going through my diary, I noticed that the Crystal Palace was first opened in Hyde Park on 1 May 1851. At once, a December evening in 1936 came into my mind. I lived then in Hither Green, a high point in SE London, and, as I walked along, I glanced down a side turning, looked across to the next high point – Sydenham Hill – and saw the Crystal Palace burst into flames. I was almost hypnotised and must have stood there in gathering crowds for an hour or more with all the history and symbolism of the Palace rushing through my mind. It was built at the peak of mid-Victorian optimism: it was crashing to the ground at a time of slump, mass unemployment and pessimism as the dark clouds began to settle over Europe.

This monstrous structure of glass and steel, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, was the most admired feature of the Prince Consort's Great Exhibition, planned to show the world the extent and value of our free trade and all the new inventions and cheap goods being spawned by the Industrial Revolution. There was a last minute panic. The glass palace (1,600 feet long and 110 feet high) had encased a number of the Hyde Park trees. In the trees were flocks of sparrows who could be expected to deliver very unwelcome messages to the top hatted and crinolined visitors. Clearly they couldn't be shot inside a glass house. The Queen is said to have bellowed the problem into the ear trumpet of the aged Duke of Wellington. The Iron Duke came up to scratch: '*Sparrow hawks, ma'am!*' And so the Great Exhibition was launched by Prince Albert and patronised by the Queen. All the world flocked to show its admiration for the wealth, progress and enlightenment of mid-Victorian Britain. They came to see, to praise and to pay. The whole thing was a propaganda and financial success and its driving force was smug self satisfaction. Trevelyan described it as a massive commercial display which '*was lent a halo by a feeling of international good will ...*'

For the Crystal Palace did not give a full or a clear picture of the state of England. By 1851, there had been a massive influx of the poor from countryside to town: cities like Manchester had more than quadrupled their population within 50 years. It is true that some slight improvements in their condition were starting to appear – the window tax was abolished in 1851 and Parliament had decreed the first inspection of common lodging houses. But in general there was little outside the Crystal Palace of which we could boast to our Continental neighbours or to the USA – appalling housing, bad sanitation, infectious disease were all worse in our country than in theirs. Perhaps it is significant that in the same year, Charles Dickens (who with Thomas Carlyle fiercely opposed the commercial philosophy symbolised by the Crystal Palace) started the serial publication of *Bleak House* – his darkest and fiercest indictment of Victorian society.

Still, the Great Exhibition was a success, setting an example promptly followed by our trade competitors and starting a fashion that is still with us. The problem of what to do with the glass monster was solved in good commercial style. A private company bought up the materials and carried them to a new site on Sydenham Hill. (Anyone who knows Sydenham now will find it hard to believe that in early Victorian times it was a fashionable and popular spa!) Here it was rebuilt under Paxton's watchful eye and opened in 1854 by Queen Victoria as a 'permanent' centre for popular entertainment. It was so successful that some 20 years later Alexandra Palace was built to collect the coppers from the pockets of those in the north of the capital. The Crystal Palace served its purpose continuously until the great fire – indeed in the early 1920s, it also housed the Imperial War Museum. The two massive stone towers flanking the Palace at Sydenham were not much more permanent: they were demolished early in the second World War as offering a prominent landmark to enemy aircraft attacking London.

Six months before the Palace burned down, it was the scene of a great Toc H garden party and rally forming part of the week long celebration of our 21st birthday. It was a marvellous week, still fresh in the memories of those who took part. In August 1936, the *Toc H Journal* published a 108 page illustrated supplement telling the story of that huge celebration. The supplement ended with a very wise piece from Hubert Secretan. He pointed to the contrast between the scale and glitter of the Festival and the reality of Toc H when we all got home (just like the contrast between the Great Exhibition and the realities of life in the towns). '*We are perturbed,*' he said of the real are. '*If we have seen clearly for a moment a vision of a changed world ... we have to come back to ourselves and to the men we know, and to start that change there ... we have got to pass that understanding on to the man next door ...*'

The Wider Family

by Keith Rea — Toc H International Secretary

Once again it is a privilege to bring to your attention a miscellany of Toc H work from abroad — all carried out in a personal way forging links of love between helpers and helped.

Zimbabwe

Last time we gave a rather despairing report concerned with the number of members leaving the country. Since then things have looked up. We have heard from several members and a recent letter published from Thelma Bryan published in *Point Three* attracted a donation from a Surrey member towards the work of the Elim Hospital.

Mrs Robb Mascetti tells us of members' work with the Jairos Jiri Centre in Harare and our picture shows the patients' joy at the showing of films by the Branch.



India

That remarkable Branch Cochin have now thrown their weight behind a national campaign to wipe out leprosy. Their President Mr P A Kuruvilla says, 'When all the Toc H Branches in the world are praying in groups to help this work of love for our brothers, God will surely hear our prayers and give us the necessary help and guidance in eradicating these diseases successfully'.

Please bear in your thoughts those who tackle this tremendous task.

Australia

Many members have enquired about the fires and floods. Leila Altschwager writes: 'Ash Wednesday really was a horror, there was a strong north wind whipping up clouds of dust and then the fires started in so many areas. The firefighters had no hope of stopping the blazes with the intense heat and the speed with which the fires raced through. Twenty six lives were lost in this State, plus some 200 houses and hundreds of farm sheds and animals. It was much worse in Victoria which is more heavily timbered. The greatest losses here were in the Adelaide hills, and the fires swept down to a number of suburbs on the outskirts. Adelaide is built on a coastal plain, some 15 to 20 miles wide, and in more recent years, people have built houses on the slopes of the hills. We went up into the hills yesterday and it is heartbreaking to see the blackened wastes and remains of houses ...

'A second tragedy struck two weeks later when we had violent thunderstorms and torrential rain. In the Barossa Valley, our most famous wine growing region was the worst hit. Houses were swept away, and hundreds badly flooded ...

She says it is now cooler and the grass has started to grow at a tremendous rate.

New Zealand

We have given little coverage to New Zealand lately so it is good to start off with congratulations to Dunedin Branch on their 50th birthday. Philip Liner sends us the photograph shown here and says: 'From left to right, Beryl Tyrell, her husband Vern, his brother Maurice and their sister Alma Gordon, looking pretty pleased with themselves. And so they should. They're at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Dunedin New Zealand Branch, and their total combined service in Toc H is 152 years ... The Branch made the news, and they have persuaded several former members to rejoin ... The Branch though small in numbers is actively engaged in typical Toc H service in this Edinburgh of the South Seas — hospital visiting, adopting



patients, running an Old Folks Club, and decorating flower baskets for the City's yearly cultural festival'.

From Wellington, Evelyn Dunn tells us that the Branch is healthy and has resumed visits to the Tawa hostel much to the excitement of the blind and aged residents.

Much in Little

From Western Australia Bill Brown reports that Toc H has supplied 500 Audio-Visual Alarm Systems for the aged and infirm during the last year.

Bob Bayliff, a lone member, now at Renkum, Holland is Chairman of the PCC running the English Church at Arnhem which has just celebrated 50 years of continuous worship.

Dome. This revolutionary building concept by Graham Ramsey, in Cape Town, has now gained planning approval and a four domed community centre will shortly spring up known as the Blomvie Toc H Centre.

Southern Africa

Exciting news of the extension of the work for the care of cripples in the Durban area in the form of a new 'Elcazor' complex! The eight buildings include: administration office, social worker's office and shop; sewing and handicraft section; woodwork section;

physiotherapy section (including doctor's consulting room, clinic and gymnasium); dining room and kitchen; kindergarten; caretaker's cottage. A playing field nearby will be available to the Elcazor Paraplegics Games Team.

Long Distance Extension! Roy Eckart of Los Altos, California has been sponsored into the Movement by Roy Nieper, Hon Commissioner Toc H Queensland, Australia — the link was Scouting when both were involved in a Jamboree held in Queensland. Roy Eckart an ex-airline pilot tells us that he now favours cycling as a means of transport!

If we want to inherit the future...

... we must demolish resistance to change — or there might not be any future.

Some of the barriers are appalling. They keep out justice. They bar the way to peace. They prevent development. They build up suffering. Those who believe that 'Wogs begin at Calais' won't bother. But we probably will.

We aim to spend a lot of time building bridges and breaking down barriers, so the One World Week (October 23-30) offers even more opportunities, with some interesting ideas which could become useful Branch activities — for example: collecting and 'doing up' tools for Third World Countries*; a hospitality weekend for overseas students attending a local college; a dinner or hot pot supper, with guests from the local immigrant community.

(*Send tools to: Tools for Self Reliance, 1 Little Anglesey, Gosport, Hants PO12 2HS OR Geoff Allen, 2 St James Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO1 5FH).

These aren't exactly the ideas as presented — they've been given a 'Toc H twist' — and there's scope for others in a set of study and action guides available from the organisers. Complete the form and sent it, NOT TO TOC H, but to One World Week, PO Box 1, London SW9 8BH.

CSS

Please send me
study and action guides @ 50p

. Poster/leaflets @ 5p

I enclose a donation of

(Prices include p & p. Please make cheques/POs payable to One World Week)

Name

Address

.

For your diary

A Quiet Afternoon in the Cotswolds

Over the past few years we have enjoyed very happy quiet afternoons beginning with a picnic lunch, a first afternoon session, plenty of time to walk about after the introductory talks, and finish at 5 pm.

This year I have been asked to conduct the afternoon myself and have been offered the use of the Friends' Meeting House in Painswick from 12.30 pm which gives them time to end their own morning worship before we take over.

The event is open to all, whatever their contact with Toc H and wherever they come from.

Painswick is a delightful place to walk around. For any who wish to prolong the day there is Evensong in the beautiful Park Church at 6.15pm.

Date: Sunday 3 July

Place: Friends' Meeting House, Painswick

Time: 12.30pm to 5 pm

Cost: £1 each

Food: Bring your own picnic. Tea or coffee provided

Map to get you there available on request. Names please to: Revd Canon Hugh Potts, 5 Hilton Close, Hempsted, Gloucester GL2 6LQ.

Sue Ryder Home, Leckhampton, Glos

This Sue Ryder Home cares for cancer patients. It is already operating but there is a great deal of work still to be done in the grounds — particularly in draining, clearing and repairing a large lake. The Toc H Gloucestershire Projects Group has taken on this task as a long term job and is appealing for volunteers to come and share this hard, dirty but very worthwhile work.

The dates of the organised full weekends for the rest of this year are: 7-8 May, 4-5 June, 2-3 July, 7-8 August, 3-4 September, 1-2 October and 5-6 November. Volunteers are welcome for the weekend (work starting each day at 10 am) or for any part of it. There is equipment on site but you'll need old clothes, Wellington boots, and plenty of energy.

Accommodation is in a nearby Scout Hut. Food is not provided — self catering only — but you'll get plenty of cups of tea!

Please contact: John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye (Tel: Ross-on-Wye 62336)

Fifty Years of Toc H (Yiewsley and West Drayton)

A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication will be held on Saturday 2 July 1983 at 4 pm at St Matthew's Church, High Street, Yiewsley followed by a tea and social evening in the School Hall. Former members and friends warmly welcome. RSVP to Branch Secretary, Mr T E Hinde, 2 Whitehorn Avenue, Yiewsley, Middlesex by 15 June 1983.

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during February/March.

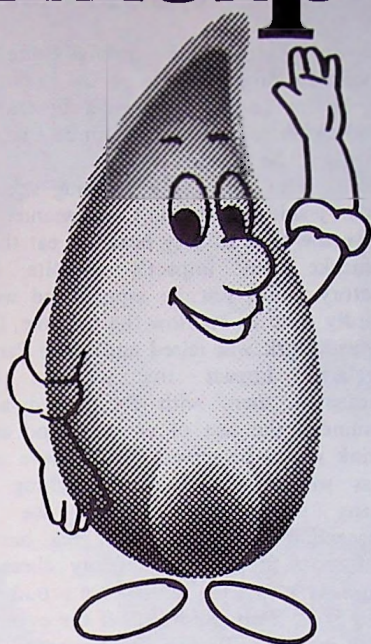
- 4 — Bargoed (W), Cheltenham (J) Swannington (W)
- 2 — Bala (M), Dundee (J) Group, Walton (M)
- 1 — Bangor (J), Broadway (M), Dalton-in-Furness (J), Ecclesfield (W), Felpham (M), Gloucester (J), Hitchin (M), Melton Mowbray (W), Nailsea (M), NE Norfolk District, St Annes (J), Whitstable (W)

A warm welcome to 30 new members

IDEAS CORNER

Here's a suggestion from those Letterkit people (see *Point Three* September issue). Posters made up from gummed letters or water based paint can be waterproofed by covering them in the transparent cling film used for sandwiches or bookbinding. Alternatively (and this is our own idea) you could pop the poster into a polythene bag and pin the whole thing to a noticeboard. Use the bag upside down so that the rain can't get in!

"Help your people to the help they need"



There are quite a lot of people who could benefit from some of the helpful services provided by British Gas — but who are unaware of them. People like the elderly and disabled.

You could help them to the help they need by spreading the word more among your people.

We will gladly provide you with explanatory leaflets about special help for disabled people, gas safety, easy payments and other helpful services we can offer. Just ring — or write to your local Home Service Adviser. You'll find the address and telephone number below.

SCOTTISH GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,
Scottish Gas, Granton House,
4 Marine Drive,
Edinburgh, EH5 1YB.
Tel: 031-559 5000

NORTHERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
Northern Gas, Norgas House,
P.O. Box 1GB, Killingworth,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1GB.
Tel: 0632 683000.

NORTH WEST GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
North West Gas, Welman House,
Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8AE.
Tel: 061-928 6311.

NEGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
Negas, 5-7 New York Road, Leeds,
LS2 7PE. Tel: 0532 36291.

EMGAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
Emgas, P.O. Box 145,
De Montfort Street, Leicester,
LE1 9DB. Tel: 0533 551111.

WEST MIDLANDS GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
West Midlands Gas, 5 Wharf Lane,
Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2JP.
Tel: 021-705 6888.

WALES GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,
Wales Gas, Snelling House,
Bute Terrace, Cardiff, CF1 2UF.
Tel: 0222 33131.

EASTERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
Eastern Gas, Star House,
Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2PD.
Tel: 77 51151.

NORTH THAMES GAS

Chief Home Service Adviser,
North Thames Gas,
North Thames House, London Road,
Staines, Middx., TW18 4AE.
Tel: 81 61666.

SEGAS

Segas, Katharine Street, Croydon,
CR9 1JU. Tel: 01-688 4466.

SOUTHERN GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
Southern Gas, P.O. Box 103,
St. Mary's Road, Southampton,
SO9 7GH. Tel: 0703 824124.

SOUTH WEST GAS

Regional Home Service Adviser,
South West Gas, Riverside,
Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol,
BS18 1EQ. Tel: 027-56 61717.

BRITISH GAS HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Home Service Adviser, or
The Home Economist, British Gas,
Marketing Division,
326 High Holborn, London,
WC1V 7PT. Tel: 01-242 0789.

BRITISH GAS



'IMPACT' win a close race!

by Graham Lowther

Tuesday 16 February was no ordinary Tuesday. The lamps of Toc H were carried across the country from Loughborough, Syston, Anstey, Melton and Bingham. The event was the 'Annual Pancake Competition' at Long Clawson. Over 100 people were present and out of these, eight teams, with four members in each, were hoping they had the perfect recipe for success. The prize was a Toc H frying pan, to be held by the winners for a year.

The Master of Pancakes (Steve Partis) had organised the event and he refereed it with a firm hand. He welcomed us all to Long Clawson and described the event and the various hurdles to be overcome. The tasks required of the team were sucking paper off a long piece of string, fastening nuts on to bolts, sorting out packs of cards into suits and dropping clothes pegs into milk bottles and many other 'delightful' tasks. All these activities culminated in the preparation and consumption of pancakes.

Syston and Bingham kicked off and, although Bingham provided a young team, experience and maturity in the art of pancake management counted at the end of the day and Syston went through to the next round. Melton Men v Melton Women was a particularly 'heated race'. This local Derby produced some intense competition but the ladies knew how to 'cook up' a victory and got through to

the second round. The men from Anstey and the Loughborough Branch provided the third heat and with some fast walking from Frank Johnstone, Anstey took their place in the second round. The Anstey Ladies were up against a young and formidable Impact team, and age and experience on this occasion could not match the zeal and enthusiasm of their opponents.

Having hardly had time to consume their pancake, Impact were playing Syston in the second round and, with the hurdles slightly changed, the two teams battled for a place in the final. Syston put up a good fight but the Impact team, in hot pursuit of the trophy, secured themselves a place in the final. Melton Ladies and Anstey Men, both teams with considerable experience and talent in pancake production, sought a place also in the final. Frank Johnstone supplied the pace for Anstey Men but the efficiency of Melton Ladies was too much and so they went through to meet Impact.

With yet another change in the hurdles, the whistle was blown and the final began. The dazzling competence and efficiency of Melton Ladies was now matched by the speed and vivacity of Impact. The frying pan glistened under the fluorescent light and teams fought on with cheering from both sides of the hall. Competence and efficiency were

beginning to shine through and a successful dropping of a peg into a bottle by Melton Ladies gave them a substantial lead. After some assistance, Impact began to fight back and chased hard. Both teams went down the finishing stretch side by side and Melton Ladies seemed to have the edge as they began to eat their pancake, but Impact's appetite for victory could not be sapped and with hardly time to swallow the pancake, the Impact fork was raised and Steve Partis declared Impact the winners. He presented them with the award and reminded the rest of us that food and drink was to be served. This, believe me, was welcomed and after watching so many people eat pancakes we all descended on the food with great haste. We were supplied with many cheeses, some of which the locals were proud of, and Steve Partis rounded off the evening with the sale of Stilton. The Impact team, Lalji Visavadia, Julie Stanley, Linda Vann and Sharon Fletcher (borrowed from Melton but with an Impact zeal) allowed themselves and the trophy to be photographed. 'We will remember' this event and, as a newcomer to Toc H, I was impressed by the warmth and sincerity which everyone generated. We all look forward to the 'Pancake Competition 1984' as another occasion to share time with each other.

The Problem of Alcoholism

by Agnes Cook

Some 12 years ago, Edith Churchill and I agreed to attend the meetings of the Friends of Dyfrig House, on behalf of our Cardiff Toc H Branch. These were held in the house every month with a view to raise funds to assist the residents. We knew very little then about the rehabilitation of the alcoholic.

We found that this work was started in 1964, as an information and advice service, through the inspiration of Alun Emlyn Jones OBE, JP, who knew the problem personally. The result of that first experience of counselling people who had come voluntarily to discuss their problems showed the need of a residence for the homeless alcoholic. The first ever hostel in Wales was established in the then disused vicarage of St Dyfrig Parish, on the banks of the River Taff in Cardiff. This was in 1966: it has since become a home to many men and a few women who have been helped to overcome their serious problem.

Throughout the years there have been many difficulties to overcome — only to be expected in a voluntary organisation. Minimal funding, underpaid staff who frequently had to leave through sheer exhaustion and overwork, and residents who returned in drink from time to time, have been a few of the problems. However, eventually this work was recognised by the Home Office and the house became an approved hostel with grant aid to enable the appointment of professional staff. They still depend heavily on voluntary financial support but it is a recognised fact that Dyfrig House provides an alternative to prison. A man or woman who is an alcoholic is not necessarily a criminal but the sheer urge for drink frequently makes them break the law.

The hostel has 28 beds. This includes an 'assessment block' for new admissions who stay from three to six weeks. During this period, an assessment is made of the

sincerity of the newcomer's attempt to give up drink and to establish himself once more in society.

The need for this kind of help has meant expansion and now there are three hostels in South Wales — in Newport, Gwent, Dyfrig House in South Glamorgan and Brynhael in Mid-Glamorgan. They are all recognised by the Social Services Departments, Public Health Authorities and the Probation Service in their areas.

In October 1976, when I retired as a Justice of the Peace, I was asked by Mr Emlyn Jones to join the Management Committee of Dyfrig House and to attend its weekly meetings. Within a year I became a member of the South Wales Council on Alcoholism Executive Committee and for some years now I have been Chairman of the Friends of the House. This small band of friends (including four from our Toc H Joint Branch) has now agreed to visit residents



What do you think?

It has been suggested that each issue of *Point Three* carries a 'Coming Events' page. This would enable readers to turn directly to one page to see what is happening, rather than have boxed notices scattered through the magazine.

I like the idea, but there are some possible snags. Some months we have hardly any news of this kind and at other times we have much more than a page. Moreover, some people find the layout of the magazine improved by the present scatter which the designer uses to break up solid blocks of text. It might be possible to avoid these problems by carrying the notices just as we do at present but having an index of them on one page.

Could I ask you for help in two ways?

1. Please write to tell me what you think of the idea.
2. Send in your notices. These could include planned weekends, open meetings, under recruited projects etc. But please send in only notices of events of wider than Branch interest — we can't go into the business of publicising happenings that are of local concern only. And allow plenty of time — I need copy at least six weeks before publication date ie by 23 May for inclusion in July's *Point Three*.

— Editor

who have to go to hospital and also to support those who go out into bedsitters once they feel they are ready to leave the house. Loneliness once they are completely on their own often causes great strain and provides a real temptation to take to drink again.

This work of rehabilitation has had its own reward. Many — on a quick count at least 30 — have been able to return to work, succeed in that work and to become recognised members in society. One very successful resident, a qualified electrical engineer, is now at a University in charge of the maintenance of a section of electrical engineering research. I see him each time I go to London on Toc H business or privately and I am delighted at the great effort he has made to get back to work after years of depression and illness caused through drink. He is not a young man but is respected and trusted in his work.

A further extension was undertaken in faith in 1978 when, under the Government's Job Creation Programme, a telephone and counselling service was

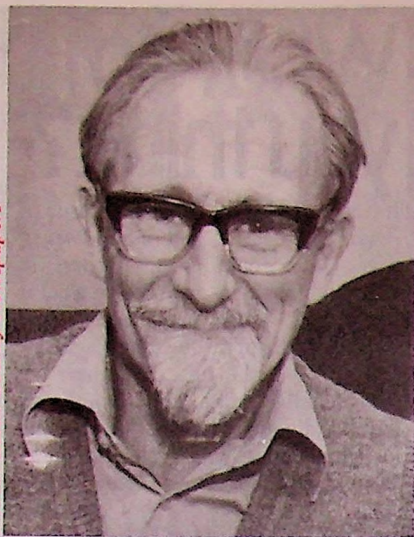
created and housed in the Cardiff Toc H Centre. This venture proved so necessary that it has continued ever since and is now assisted with grants by the South Glamorgan Social Services Committee and South Glamorgan Health Authority. The Welsh Office has also given a grant but this will discontinue in 1983. A Committee was formed in March 1979 and I was appointed Chairman. This telephone and counselling service has proved a tremendous help to those trying to overcome their drink problem and also to relatives needing guidance and support.

One of the saddest aspects of this problem is the total loss of family. By the time we have met them, most of the residents have lost touch with their families and relatives. Where possible, with their agreement once they are on the way to re-establish themselves, contact is made with an ex-wife, or a relative in order to give them the opportunity of renewing a relationship. In a few instances this is successful and very gratifying it is too.

From this brief account of this special

piece of work, I hope you will see what can be done in a so-called unpopular piece of social work. Once more, Toc H has given me another interest and commitment. Little did I think in 1967 that I would be so involved in this sphere. I drink very little myself and it does not bother me to do without. However, all of us involved in assisting those who are very sick with this particular problem realise only too clearly the dangers of social drinking. I have already mentioned that women have been helped at Dyfrig House. Many will realise that problem drinking for women can be as serious as for men and this has been proved in our telephone and counselling service.

May I conclude by saying that this drink problem strikes men and women of all classes of society. We have tried to assist solicitors, doctors, ministers of religion and professional media men. May I suggest that every one of us in Toc H and others who may read this short account of one particular problem, be friendly and kindly disposed towards any one that they realise needs understanding, friendship and help.



'Husky' was the last Lepra Toc H worker and he has recently retired after working with leprosy patients in Africa for 37 years. He was known to the people of Northern Nigeria, in the Hausa language, as 'The Man of the Hands' — a reference to the typical 'claw hands' deformity brought on by leprosy.

Lepa has enjoyed Toc H support since 1935 when Tubby — horrified by the plight of the leprosy sufferers he met in Nigeria — called on all Toc H members to support Lepa's work. We still retain a Toc H representative on Lepa's Executive.

See also 'Armadillos & DDS' by Julia Collins in Point Three, June 1977.

—Editor



Our Regimental Toc H tent with fireplace and library "The only tent with a fireplace in the division".

'THE MAN OF

I was born and bred in rural Derbyshire. On leaving school, I first worked in a major bank and then in the brewery business. I joined the Territorial Army (a cavalry regiment) in April 1939, and we were shipped overseas to Palestine, with our horses, in February 1940. In 1941 the horses were replaced by Tanks but I will never forget the pandemonium when our horses first sighted (and smelt) camels!

After completing officer training in Cairo, I was commissioned into The Royal Artillery and while stationed at Shaibah, in Iraq (where my father had also served, in the Royal Garrison Artillery, in 1917) I became a Toc H probationer. Later, when we moved to the Western Desert, I was appointed Secretary of our Regimental Toc H Branch. As such I received literature from BELRA in England, concerning sufferers in Africa and India.

In January 1944, I was initiated a full member of Toc H at Talbot House, Alexandria, Egypt, by the late Howard Dunnett, then Warden. In May 1944, I had my first (of many) memorable meetings with Tubby at the Middle East Toc H Rally, held at All Saints Cathedral Hall in Cairo. What an impact it made on me! With Tubby one felt that, with God's help, all things were possible.



Toc H warden and wife, Talbot House, Alexandria.



Tubby at Middle East Toc H Rally, Cairo.

At the beginning of 1945, I returned to England where, after leave, I was posted to Norway! (From the heat to the cold!)

On being demobbed in 1946, I went to see Tubby in London about his appeal for Toc H volunteers for leprosy work in Africa. I hoped to be employed by The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (now known as LEpra), as I felt that my pursuits, both in civilian and army life, fitted me for this type of work. He referred me to the late Alec Churcher, then dealing with Toc H overseas affairs, and Alec did all he could to dissuade me (on purpose, as he later told me, to test my resolve).

I resigned from the brewery in Burton-on-Trent and joined BELRA. Tubby (as my Jobmaster) gave me the charge and blessing in All Hallows. This was followed by a valedictory blessing (at Tubby's request), by the late Pat Leonard, at St Giles Cathedral, Glasgow, in October 1946, before my departure, by sea, from Leith for Southern Nigeria.

I arrived in Lagos on Trafalgar Day and set off immediately on a journey lasting three and a half days by train, followed by 40 miles on a rough road by lorry. This brought me to Itu Leper Colony (as it was then called), where over 4,500 patients lived. I was soon hard at it trying to relieve the suffering of those crippled by the disease and ostracized by their relatives and friends.

What a task it was — at it day and night with the Doctor and three other Toc H BELRA lay workers, one of whom (Hamish MacGregor) had been one of Tubby's original five. Later I was to meet two more of these fine men (Len Parker and Peter Pedrick).

After some months of medical training, I was transferred to Oji River Leprosy Settlement. There I met and married the matron (BELRA's first nursing sister, sent out to Africa in 1944).



Married a month.

THE HANDS'

by Roland
Huskinson

The introduction of Dapsone (DDS) tablets, as the standard drug for treatment in 1947, in place of Chalmogra oil injections, revolutionised the whole concept of leprosy control. It was now possible to cure leprosy. Moreover, it was no longer necessary to keep thousands of patients in settlements: most of them could now live at home, while receiving treatment at a nearby outpatient clinic. What rejoicing took place at this time!

In 1952, after working at other leprosy settlements in Southern Nigeria, I was transferred to Northern Nigeria, to work with the late Dr Charles Ross. Our task was to co-ordinate all the leprosy work of Local Authorities, Missions and Government in that vast region (the size of two and a half Englands). By 1962 more than 260,000 patients, of an estimated half million, were receiving treatment at over 2,000 outpatient clinics.

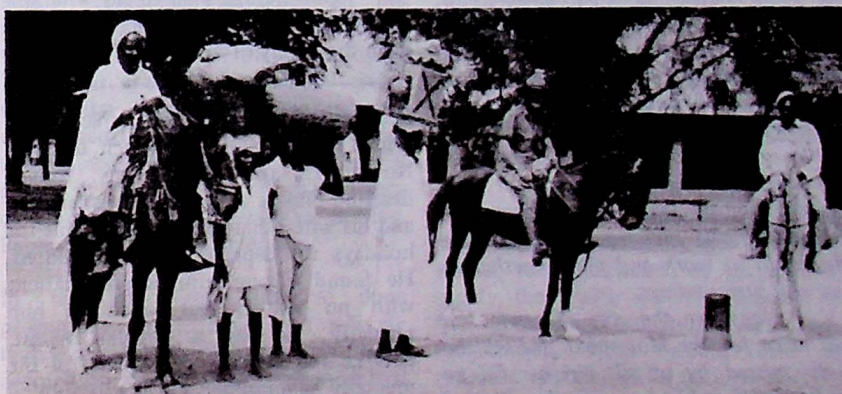
In 1967, my wife and I were transferred to Uganda — a beautiful country with a climate of eternal Spring — where we worked for ten years. During this time I was in charge of an outpatient project in a large area of the country as well as helping with the training of leprosy control supervisors, leprosy control assistants and other medical personnel. My wife was, for three years, in charge of one of the only two Training Schools in Uganda for leprosy control assistants. Short courses were also given there for medical assistants, midwives, nurses, fourth year medical students and doctors. Next came a spell of two years with the National Leprosy Control Programme of Sierra Leone (such a climatical difference: rain almost every day!) before returning to Northern Nigeria. Back there after 17 years, we found many changes. The most noticeable was to find tarred roads where previously there had been only rough mud ones. Nevertheless, despite civil war and political and economic difficulties, the problems of leprosy control were still the same. We still had to get the maximum number of patients on treatment as soon as possible after diagnosis and persuade them to continue treatment until cured. We still had to motivate leprosy control supervisors and leprosy control assistants in charge of outpatient clinics to continue to do their work diligently and efficiently — sometimes under such very adverse conditions as poor pay, bad roads and transport and little encouragement from their superiors.

My wife and I finally returned to England in April last year.

Leprosy is a disease caused by a bacillus which, although discovered by Dr Hansen in Norway in 1973, still cannot be cultivated in the laboratory. However, research continues and work on a vaccine, which we sorely need to protect the children of future generations, also progresses. Shortly before leaving Nigeria, I was encouraged by the reply of an old man named Adamu who had absented himself from treatment for some time. When I asked him *'Why have you come back to us? Are you feeling much worse?'* he replied *'No, No. My grandson, returning from school said to me, "Grandfather, why don't you go for treatment? You have leprosy, which I learn about at school".'* It is for children like this small boy that we need effective preventative treatment (such as a vaccine). But research costs a great deal of money. Therefore, your help and mine is still needed by LEPRO. I know Tubby's charge to Toc H today would still be to support LEPRO, by assisting with Flag Day Collections, and encouraging members to help in any way they can to raise funds for LEPRO. We must go on until this crippling disease, claiming as it does over 12 million of the world's population, is eradicated. Join me in a prayer: *'Help us, Oh Lord, not to forget our less fortunate brethren.'*



With group of successful students on Graduation Day.



We leave for clinic tour with bag and baggage—1958.



Husky's new vehicle—1981.

We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.
— Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In October

Mary M Young (Milford-on-Sea)

In November

Albert J Talbot (Horton Kirby)

In January

Revd Phillip Grubb (Milford-on-Sea)

Edyth Checkley (Milford-on-Sea)

In February

Jack Bacon (Alfreton)

Harold C Bryan (Criccieth)

Ernest W Coker (Higham Ferrers)

Harold D Gardner (Stockport)

Edward Jenner (Wortley-de-Leeds)

John W Maddock (Leeds District)

William H 'Legs' Warren (Weymouth)

Dorothy A White (East Sussex District)

T Harold Winter (Saltford)

In March

Helen Butterfield (Springfields District)

Lydia Harrison (Mablethorpe &

Sutton-on-Sea)

S Florence Jefferson (Bristol East District)

Winifred F Keigwin (late of Fairways)

Frederick L Petch (Hitchin)

When Richard Ayshford Sanford died in February, Broadway Branch and the whole Movement lost a good friend. Richard was a member of long standing and good service both at Branch and national level. Perhaps his outstanding achievement was the acquisition of Dor Knap for the use of our Movement. A conference and training centre was the dream of John Calf and Richard, through his close association with Lord Dulverton, was able to leave 'Dor Knap' for that purpose: we all know what effect that had in bringing members from all over the world to work and play together in peaceful surroundings.

Many are the acts of service he had done for the Movement. He will be sadly missed by us all, but he will be remembered with joy as a good and faithful servant.

JJ

Two much loved members of Brandon (Suffolk) Men's Branch died recently.

Arthur Moreton was a founder member in 1935 and was Branch Chairman for some 30 years. He also served a long spell as District Chairman. Through Toc H he set up the Old Folks Thursday Club — still flourishing after 30 years — as well as his cherished Christmas parties for the old of the town. He served many years as a parish councillor — some of them as Chairman. He was a school manager and Chairman

of the Brandon Welfare Association. His life was devoted to service and he will be greatly missed over a wide area.

Edward Charles Walkley (Charlie) died in January after a long illness. He had a wide range of concerns but his two greatest loves were Methodism and Toc H. He had been a Branch member for more than 20 years, serving eight years as Vice-Chairman and some four years as Pilot. He was proud to remain Branch pilot to the end, even though he had been confined to a wheelchair for his last three years.

W O Hedley (Scunthorpe) died recently. Wilf joined Toc H in its very early days and has been a member of Scunthorpe Joint Branch for more than 40 years. He held most Branch offices in turn and is greatly missed by his friends there.

Criccieth Branch write to tell us that they lost a valuable member when **Harold Bryan**, died on 14 February at the age of 79. Harold was a faithful member, very regular at meetings and always ready to offer his services to help any good cause. He was the log writer for some time, and his log was always very accurate. Members of Harold's calibre are very hard to come by these days, and the Branch feels his loss very deeply.

Our thoughts go to his wife and family and we send them our condolences from the family of Toc H.

Reg Moore, one of the 'characters' of Hemel Hempstead Men's Branch, died last November, aged 77. Reg's friends describe him as a 'natural Christian'. He and his wife Edna opened their home for holidays for deprived London children. He found a long term hospital patient with no visitors and called on him regularly. He was a popular pianist, entertaining patients at a home for the mentally handicapped and at a local blind club (which he had helped set up). His little shoe shop was always 'open house' to anyone wanting just to talk. Reg just loved people and his countless friends included school children, pensioners and all those between.

The Chairman of S Sussex District writes to tell us of the death in February of **Fred Parker** after an illness bravely borne. During his 46 years of membership, Fred held every major office in Seaford Branch and S Sussex District and had served as a Central Councillor. He was known in Seaford as 'Mr Toc H' and enquiries were usually directed to him. In 1951, he

broke away from Seaford to set up a new Branch (Denton — still very active) in the Searchlight Home for Disabled Men. Then, in the early 1960s, he returned to Seaford and set about revitalising what had become an ailing Branch: again his efforts were crowned with success. In recent years, Fred paid several visits to the Old House — the birthplace of the Movement that meant so much to him.

Latterly, *'a serious operation limited his physical activities . . . but not his concern for his Branch's well being . . . He always urged us to maintain a high standard of service . . . We shall strive to do so. We shall miss Fred keenly . . . but remember him "with proud thanksgiving".'*

Tavistock Branch report the death in January at the age of 84 of **George Edwin Wood** ('Timber') — one of their founder members: His wife, Daisy pre-deceased him by three days. Since the Branch's inception in 1929, Timber had filled all major executive offices in turn. *' . . . His enthusiasm for Toc H knew no bounds and led him to membership of the Central Council and the former South Western Area Executive. After a second period of service with the Royal Marines in WW2 he returned to civilian life with his zeal for Toc H still as intense as ever. In the 50s and early 60s the name of Timber Wood was as well known in many West country Toc H Branches as that of Tubby Clayton. He gave much of his time to forming new Branches, which involved a great deal of travelling, often after his own working day had ended. . . He made his way about the area by public transport or by an often complicated series of lifts in the cars of friends. His relentless enthusiasm tolerated no obstacles and without doubt played a major role in strengthening and sustaining Toc H in the South Western Area. His wife and daughter, Thelma, were also active members of Toc H.'*

'The inspiration for all Timber's good works came from his deep and unshakeable commitment to the Christian faith, which was reflected in the worshipping membership of himself and his family in the Anglican Church.'

'Deepest sympathy goes to daughter, Thelma, who lost both her parents in such a short space of time, and who gave them so much loving care and attention — especially during their latter years of ill health.'

GDD

We give thanks for their lives

Cuddesdon House

The address was given wrongly on p10 of our April issue.

Please note that the correct postal address is: Cuddesdon House, Cuddesdon, OXFORD OX9 9HB.

Painting and Music at Cuddesdon

There are still a few vacancies for July 23-30 and October 22-29.

Complete beginners and 'old hands' equally welcome.

Write to:

Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT for details and application form.

Pottery and Woodwork Week

Saturday 30 July to Saturday 6 August 1983 at Cuddesdon House. Cost: Adults £63. Children of 12 and under £44. Min age 16 (unless accompanied by an adult).

You are warmly invited to share this week at Cuddesdon this summer. It is a chance for beginners to try their hand at Pottery and Woodwork, and for experts to try doing it differently, and to share their skills. You will have a chance to throw pots on a wheel, sculpt, model or any other experiment you wish, and then to help in firing the pots in a wood fired kiln. Those doing woodwork will be making small toys and games which may make ideal gifts.

This week is suitable for physically handicapped people, provided they have the use of both hands.

It is a relaxed and informal week, when you work when you wish to, and relax when you wish to.

To book a place, send a £10 deposit to John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7BZ.

50 YEARS AGO!



Toc H Listening

[This feature appeared originally in Toc H Journal, May 1933]

Tubby, speaking at the Festival in Birmingham last December, said that, in addition to Toc H, one of the most potent factors in the world today was Wireless. Some suggestions as to how we might take more advantage of its opportunities follow.

One of the things that Toc H tries to do is to bring the expert to the Group. This is becoming more and more difficult as the number of Toc H units increases and the novelty of the experience for the expert wears off. Also, in a time of increasing leisure a great number of people are not equipped to make proper use of this leisure.

These two problems can possibly be met to some extent by taking advantage of the programmes which the British Broadcasting Corporation are providing. They spend their whole time procuring experts and they get them to deal with a lot of the problems that should interest members of Toc H. Take, for instance, the programme for January, February and March 1933. It included a very comprehensive series on housing and the problems of slum clearance, and an equally comprehensive series on the efforts that are being made to cope with the enforced leisure of the unemployed. There was a series on 'Careers' giving some idea of the conditions and requirements of some of the big occupational groups. There was, too, a series of discussions on some very controversial matters such as Betting, Public Schools and Vivisection.

In the interesting April to June programme, for example, you will see that a weekly talk or discussion will be devoted to various aspects of industrial relations. A Sunday series will be devoted to such pioneers of world exploration as Marco Polo and Dr Nansen, and such pioneers of a humaner world as Florence Nightingale and Lord Shaftesbury. There will be a series on slavery. On Monday evenings, the economist will be in the witness box and he will have to answer the sort of questions that the man in the street would like to ask him and which, indeed, he can ask him, if he chooses to write to Commander Stephen King-Hall, c/o The BBC.

Then, on the lighter side of things there

will be regular reviews of books, theatres and cinemas, and one series on the enjoyment of novels and another on the enjoyment of music. There are courses in three European languages and a series by Julian Huxley on 'Science in the Making'. On Friday evenings, J B Priestley will tell you whatever he feels inclined to about everyday matters. On Saturday evenings there will be two series, one devoted to descriptions of various enterprising holidays that people have tried; and the other to the playing of several of our great actors and actresses — they will be heard either personally or by record in some of the parts that have made them famous.

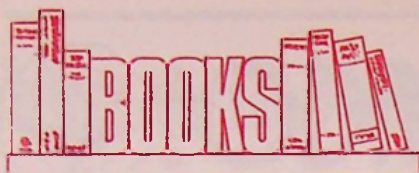
One of the difficulties of 'listening' by a Toc H unit is that the times of these series may not be very convenient, though very few of them are before 7.30 and none of them after 10 pm. Also, it probably would not be possible for a unit to listen consecutively to the whole of any series. But we think that it might be possible for one person to undertake to follow the coming programme and warn his unit of items that they ought not to miss.

One of the activities of the BBC is to encourage Discussion Groups who will follow some of the educational series. We believe that there is difficulty in finding suitable leaders for these Discussion Groups. This, possibly, might interest one or two of your members to whom some of the other more obvious forms of social service do not appeal.

If your unit is interested in the programmes provided by the BBC they would, we understand, be prepared to supply them with a certain amount of free literature — including the Talks Programmes. They would also be prepared to supply information about the Discussion Groups.

LBGC

Note: Has this got an application for us today? We now have four television channels and some excellent evening material on Radio Four. When you're planning your Branch syllabus, a forward look at broadcasting programmes could be very useful. The BBC publishes an excellent booklet ('Insight') listing their continuing education programmes for a year ahead. Copies can be obtained from: Insight Information, BBC, London W1A 1AA. — Editor



Open Forum

Helping Hands

by Elizabeth Gundry

This book is the second in a series, launched by The Observer, which look at opportunities for voluntary service in the community. The first, 'Sparing Time' focussed on ways of helping people in need, and was also written by Elizabeth Gundry. This second book looks at opportunities for Conservation, in all its forms.

The reader is taken on a slightly breathless whistle stop tour of an amazing range of types of conservation. It covers the ones that spring most readily to mind, such as the conservation of historic buildings, rural life, wildlife, landscape and countryside, canals, railways etc, but also devotes attention to conservation of energy, water, a pollution free environment, and alternatives to chemicals in medication, husbandry and food. It looks at inner city renewal, with a focus on waste land and vandalism, and at public transport, shared cars and other modern developments. This book can also help if one really wants to move out of mainstream work, and preserve 'old gaffers', or paddle steamers, or Highgate Cemetery, or pubs or dog-pollution-free pavements, or the Hoo peninsula! It is all credit to the author that she can find time, in what is not a large book, to include small, local work as well as the larger societies and trusts.

The only nagging question that remains after reading this book is 'Where does conservation end? To find CAMRA included (The Campaign for Real Ale) comes as a bit of a surprise, and one wonders if she would equally happily have included, if it existed, a campaign for purer tobacco? Even more surprisingly, one learns that the Wildfowling Association of Great Britain and Ireland is a respectable conservation society, with grants from the Nature Conservancy Council. One awaits with interest the first grant from the Nature Conservancy Council to a local hunt, on the grounds that it is actually conserving foxes!

But these are not major grumbles. Overall, the fact that the author takes such a liberal view of 'conservation' is a real bonus. This book is a useful survey of the field, and a handy reference book for anyone wishing to find out How? and Where? and Who? and What?

J E Mitchell

This book is an Unwin Paperback Special and costs £2.25.

Nuclear Deterrence

The old saying 'things are not always what they seem' applies particularly to politics. Your editorials (February and March issues) are certainly hair raising, but what are the facts? . . .

Over a long period, the USA has given enormous aid to the USSR (estimated at \$50 billion) including not only technology but financial assistance as well. For many years too, the USA has shipped millions of tons of wheat to Russia to make up their annual shortages. It is well known that the Russians were given big concessions at the Yalta Conference. They were allowed to march into Berlin while the Allied Armies were halted: no satisfactory explanation has ever been given of this extraordinary action.

Does all this make sense? It is certainly not usual to act in this manner towards the world's greatest potential enemy — unless those formerly referred to as 'merchants of death' are on both sides of the fence. Benjamin Disraeli hinted at this in his novel 'Coningsby' when his multi-millionaire character said, 'You know, the world is ruled by persons very different to what the general public imagines'.

Perhaps we all ought to try a bit harder to delve below the surface and get to the truth of what is really going on.

E A Calver
Harrogate

When Canon Paul Oestreicher (quoted in *Point Three*, March issue) argues 'that gradual nuclear disarmament by us would help create the conditions of trust that would enable the super-powers to start disarmament', hasn't he got it the wrong way round? Surely it is for the super-powers (USA and USSR) to start the disarmament ball rolling and for us to follow. I think the argument that we should disarm to prove that we had no aggressive intentions towards other nations was advanced in the late 1930s by the then PPU (Peace Pledge Union). Had we followed this advice 'the new dark age' foretold by Winston Churchill would have certainly followed . . . This nostalgic 'peace through pacifism' is probably a hangover from the time not so many years ago when we were the proud possessors of an enormous empire . . . As for 'the cruellest tyranny cannot last for ever' the Soviet Union has already lasted 65 years and shows no sign of ending. This is a long time for poor mortals like ourselves whose forefathers fought and died for the freedom we now enjoy. We are not likely to barter this to please the unilateral nuclear disarmers. Let the USSR if they dare, hold a plebiscite to ascertain whether or not their people desire co-operation with the West to promote peace and world wide prosperity with the drastic reduction of all armaments, nuclear and non-nuclear. 'We are not naive', say the Soviets. Nor are we in the West, apart from the

Toc H - theology in action

by Graham R Lowther

From time to time we may talk to others about our personal relationships with God. In doing so we express individually a theology: not just a way of looking at God and trying to understand the mystery of faith, but a wanting to know God more intimately. Theology is not a dry ingredient of our Faith, but an outward manifestation of a loving relationship, one that is concerned primarily with action and not words.

We may strive in our lives to build communities, usually dependent on social class, religion or culture. It is more demanding however, to look beyond the confines of this earthly regime and to build theologically a community, not dependent on those values which we treasure, but on those things which are

pleasing to God and the setting up of His Kingdom here on earth. Because it is more demanding, we often try to avoid it.

David Shepherd, Bishop of Liverpool, believes that it is fear which prevents us from wanting to make the first move towards building that Kingdom. We all have from God an unlimited capacity to love but we are often trapped and fenced in by fear of the consequences of our action. Toc H has a capacity to build theologically a community, not based on fear, suspicion and superficial relationships, but one based on love, commitment and fellowship. An awareness of the love of God and the way that it can manifest itself in action is needed. It is a contribution that Toc H can make — to speak across the cultural,

Leftists who have visited the shrine of their originator, Karl Marx, at Highgate.

The Government, perhaps, could best follow the advice of their critics by continually pressing the USSR on this vital issue, instead of tamely following in the wake of the USA. It's all very well to treat the Opposition and the good ladies of Greenham Common with lofty disdain, but if nobody did anything to register their disapproval of this suicidal race to catastrophe, then their inaction would be dubbed: 'Apathy, with a capital A'. We, the general public, it seems, can't win. In the West we are dominated by too much money in too few hands, whilst in the USSR there is too much power in too few hands.

Toc H, I understand, wields more influence than its numbers suggest, not least in the upper strata of society. If this is so then we must hope that it will make its influence felt where it is likely to do most good, in government and business circles. We must stress the need for rapprochement between East and West, not only on vital defence matters but also on World trade. Some restrictions are needed on the unrestrained traffic in armaments, where the Soviets are just as guilty as the rest. *'Time and Tide wait for no man'*, yet the way that powers-that-be allow pressing problems to slide, suggest that they regard time, like space, as unlimited. Only armaments for defensive or aggressive purposes seem to spur them on to prompt action. *'Millions of pounds*

religious and social dividing lines and to 'build bravely'.

There is a poster which says: *'In order for evil to prevail, it is only necessary that good men do nothing'*. This, I believe, is a profound call to action and one which, as men and women of faith, we must respond to with a theological understanding. Can we ever hope to understand anything of God if we are not prepared to make the first move, to meet someone half way as in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The father is so overjoyed to see his son (who he thought was dead) that he came out to meet him. God meets us in our lives, whether it is in the community or at home with our families.

Christ offered Himself on the Cross that men might understand and believe something of the love of God. Do we put ourselves on the Cross so that others may be helped to see? The barriers *can* be broken down and Toc H *can* build communities which will strive for the things of God.

for missiles' rather than *'millions of meals for the needy millions of people'* would seem to be their motto...

Pacifism, successfully organised as it was by Mahatma Gandhi in India, could help in bringing the leaders to their senses. *'We shall not be moved'* could be a powerful factor in the 'peace offensive'.

Good, ordinary people will do all they can to build a better world. See, for example, the money we have advanced to the 'third world', the voluntary efforts of dedicated Toc H folk in Pannikampatti, the Save the Children Fund, OXFAM, War on Want, and many others. As far as the Marxist/Leninist lefties (with their destructive/disruptive tactics to overthrow our hard earned democracy) are concerned they can be dealt with through the ballot box...

Len Prentis
Ruislip

Are we finished?

Listening to the tapes on the Movement's resources was rather like listening to a funeral dirge. It seems that Tubby's words *'Abandon all rank ye who enter here'* should now be changed to read *'Abandon all hope ye who enter here'*. Toc H is like a ship without a rudder, drifting aimlessly towards its own destruction and certain things on the tape convinced us that the end will be sooner rather than later. The fact that field staff are now to work from HQ means that Branches will receive even fewer visits if that is possible. The glorification of projects, Impact Groups etc which are no doubt all worthy causes, will produce nothing in the way of membership and therefore should be abandoned until we have the membership to support such schemes. As in the past projects should be undertaken locally, by Branches and this is where field staff should be helping.

Perhaps a look at other organisations would show the way forward, for with them membership comes first and projects later.

Our priority must be to get Toc H back to what it was in the early days — a strong vigorous movement, with fine leadership nationally and internationally known. Field staff should be concerned only with building up membership in Branches which remain especially the weaker ones instead of allowing them to die. Their role is to work for expansion and to help local projects. Playgroups in Germany are surely the responsibility of the Army but a Toc H van disbursing tea and cakes, a familiar sight to troops in World War Two would surely be a good

thing for our image, serve a more useful purpose and might even be the means of enlisting new members, for this is where Toc H was born.

More vigorous leadership is certainly needed and surely it would make sense for Headquarters to be more centrally situated, for example in Leicester which is easily accessible by road and rail.

What are the views of other members?

Fred Wilkins
Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Listen!

I would like to make a comment on the feature 'No-one spoke — and he died' (*Point Three*, March issue). The words 'pitfalls of being a good listener' bring to mind two simple points in this connection.

1. Look directly at the person who is speaking, (so many tend to keep glancing away indicating a lack of real interest).
2. Do not interrupt the person who is speaking. Leave any comments, no matter how relevant, until he or she has finished telling you the problem.

The above points are so simple and yet seem to be so often ignored.

'Lockie' Lockwood
Leicester

What about the 'old uns'?

So much emphasis today is put on youth and what the young ones are accomplishing. May I bring to your notice what some of the old 'uns are doing? A good many of the members of our Branch are between 70 and 80 but it doesn't prevent them helping out all and sundry. Some are engaged in practical help for Age Concern; some work hard to raise funds for the mentally handicapped; nearly all are involved in helping at their various churches and in supporting working coffee mornings etc for different charities. There are very few appeals for help that go unanswered.

The 'younger' ones, of course, do their bit as well, with Guides, Brownies, Cubs etc. We have a Chairwoman who doesn't spare herself and an indefatigable Secretary who scoots around visiting the sick etc and has raised a goodly sum for Dr Barnados over the years.

We welcome the youth of today — we need them in Toc H and we feel they need Toc H but it's the spirit that counts, not the years.

Frances E Whyatt
Margate

Round and about

with Scott Shaw

Making a date to make money

If someone knocked on your door and offered to sell you a calendar, would you buy one? If you lived in the sales area of Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch you probably would, because they sell 800 of their own calendars every year!

Specially designed and printed for the Branch, they have an attractive local picture and calendar on one side, with advertisements by local tradesmen on the other.

Charging £2 for each advertisement and selling the calendars at 30p each, the Branch make enough money (after paying the printing bill of £127) to pay for Christmas entertainment and food (including 120 chickens!) for local elderly people.

Our correspondent Jim Carnduff, who describes himself as being 'very much publicity motivated' adds: 'there are usually funds left over (plus donations) to provide something else for the district. Last year we provided Skelmorlie doctors' surgery with foetal heart detector - a useful aid in early pregnancy.

'The calendar is a money raiser which gives a valuable service in itself. The traders, I'm sure, would pay three times as much for their advert rather than be dropped from the calendar.'

A Fellowship that survived

'Thank goodness the Branch has closed. I never want to see that lot again.' Would you ever say that? I get the impression some of us would, judging by how quickly the so called fellowship evaporates as soon as a Branch closes.

That certainly isn't true of the women of the old Bailiff Bridge Branch, which closed in 1979. They transferred to the Huddersfield District but that wasn't the end of it - their fellowship is stronger than that!

They meet at least once a year, says our correspondent Nancy Bellamy, and they have a pleasant evening! On the last occasion they joined two local church groups and had a beetle drive, followed by soup, sandwiches and cakes. Better than the Branch cuppa, eh?

Making light of the bill

Ashford's Toc H emergency flashing light system is valued so highly that the parish council has promised to replace batteries on the installations - a tidy sum - they can cost up to £2 each.

If only they'd used more imagination . . .

I'm sure you say that to yourself sometimes. It certainly happens in Toc H: we do something that's all right, as far as it goes - but it doesn't go very far!

Here's a story where a Toc H member - we'll call him Len - really thought the situation out and made a thorough job of helping someone.

An elderly woman, able to look after herself but living in a wheelchair and with no transport of her own, wrote asking if we could recommend somewhere for a week's holiday.

We contacted Len and he went into action. He later wrote: *'I visited the lady concerned and from the general discussion we had it was quite apparent that she formed an attachment to Toc H a few years ago and now missed the contact.*

'Fortunately she had made a provisional booking to spend a week at a Catholic Association residence and I advised that this be taken up since it seemed to me to be rather late to attempt any other arrangement . . .

'I was also able to present her with £25 from our Development Team funds with our best wishes. As contact has now been established it will be maintained.

'I have recommended to her, attendance at our District Branch meetings (normally twice yearly) and no doubt there will be other opportunities for this type of Toc H contact.

'In conclusion I must say she is a person with a lot of spirit and Christian faith. The type that one regards with much admiration.'

Thank you, Len, for a job well done.

Paper money

I don't want to take business away from the national stamps scheme (see back page December issue) but the efforts of Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch deserve reporting.

Reg Collins says *'we started collecting stamps some years ago when the local fire officers stopped us storing waste paper which we were then collecting.*

'Stamps, coins and trading stamps bring in about £80 to £100 a year. It's hard and laborious work for the return we get, but as I often remind our members, if we didn't do it we shouldn't get the money.

'About twice a year we put a letter

in the local press and every time we get a few extra folk who let us have stamps etc.'

The stamps are sold in bulk to dealers or circulated round the local stamp societies and bought individually. Coins go to auctions of the local Coin Club and trading stamps are redeemed in the normal way. Reg also appeals for old postcards and similar 'collectable' items.

If you know of any elderly people who aren't up to the usual Branch tasks, running a stamp scheme could be a useful way of involving them - and raising money. The source of all these stamps? Just have a word with local firms and ask them to put out for you the discarded envelopes from their incoming mail. It could be a gold mine!

Just to underline the point, I've just had another note from Reg, telling me that a recent despatch of 66,200 stamps to a dealer has brought a cheque for over £60.

More twins!

We've gaining momentum! Last month I reported that our first 'twins' - Saltford (Joint) and Paddock (Women) had been put in touch with one another. Since then we've had letters from Hitchin (Men), St Albans (Women), Kendal (Joint), The Swan Group of Maidstone (wishing to be twinned with the Swan Group of Poperinge) and Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Men), who already correspond with Hillary Branch in South Africa, but wanted a British 'twin' too!

So keep writing - I've been left holding the babies, but there's plenty of room for more!

Good work is no joke

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but criticism isn't bad either - it shows people take you seriously.

The Lamplighters, alias the New Addington Toc H Entertainments Group, recently put on a revue, 'Sing a Song of London' with items dedicated to some of the old music hall greats like Marie Lloyd and Dan Leno.

The Croydon Advertiser gave them a nine-column inch report - not without some criticism - but this clearly showed they were being treated as the professionals they surely are.

'Dear Reader . . .

(Reprinted from the Mid-Eastern magazine, with thanks to its Editor, Jeni Edwards)

'How does the image of Toc H: Old soldiers - 'dim' lamps - tradition - Tubby Clayton - tea

for troops — hospital shops — nostalgia — children's camps — hostels — church services — pilots, jobmasters & padres . . .

match up to the image of today:

computers — racialism — divorce — video — nuclear bombs — social services — redundancy — YOPs — LSD and heroin — comparative religion — juggernauts — pollution — discos

'The problems don't really change — the need of each person to find their true potential — but the language of communication does.

'Tubby Clayton had the language for his day — are we listening for those who talk right today? Or are we content to serve only those who still understand

the way we have always spoken?

'I believe the future of Toc H is about language, not finance . . . It is not just finding the way through modern communications, but of presenting a new language in terms of creativity for a world full of apathy.

'We are in the game of bridge building by any name — it would be good if that name were Toc H, but I am sure that PBC would have affirmed that it is the bridge that matters, not the builders.

'It seems to me — what do you think? — that the test of each 'job', each 'project', each 'Branch meeting', each 'committee', should be measured against its use in terms of that bridge, rather than its fulfilment in terms of a Toc H member's satisfaction.'



Disabled travel: bus or train?

More than 100 delegates, representing 20 organisations for disabled people attended a one day conference on public transport and the disabled, sponsored by the National Bus Company in March. On view were three NBC vehicles converted to carry disabled people.

The morning session was on needs and leisure travel from the operators' and engineers' view; in the afternoon the customers put their points.

Topics discussed included vehicle design and conversion, staff training, travel on express coaches, holidays and community transport.

Although NBC displayed some specially converted vehicles, problems may still exist for disabled people who consider travelling on the vast majority of conventional buses.

British Rail, on the other hand, can usually offer better facilities for medium or long distance as a matter of course. Modern inter-city railway coaches can take wheelchair passengers; the BR's advisory group, also set up in 1980, has been looking at access for visually and physically handicapped people; and they



offer half-fare travel for some classes of disabled people and the person accompanying them.

The rail-way to raise funds!

Remember those silent films when the hero, the villain — or both — raced along the railway line on an old hand pump trolley? Well Toc H and the Dean Forest Railway used a similar trolley in a sponsored rail marathon.

Twenty eight participants, from the two organisations, worked in pairs, propelling the trolley backwards and forwards over the railway's short stretch of line. After 24 hours, they had covered 130 miles — that's an average speed of nearly 5½ mph — but both organisations earned themselves a good income from the sponsorship money — what you might call the wage of the train . . . ?

Book yourself an argument!

Speaking from experience, I find it's not difficult to start an argument in the Branch, so why keep it to yourself? Follow the example of North Nottingham Branch and involve others!

They recently invited a local debating society to join them to discuss the proposition that growth in industrialised countries should cease.

And briefly . . .

Horton Kirby Branch joined the Women's section of the local British Legion for a talk by staff man Revd 'Polly' Perkins and Central Councillor John Cox . . .

Broughton Astley Branch delivered potatoes to 240 elderly people; the venture is funded by the Branch's waste paper collection . . .

The old people of Anstey will be enjoying their annual outing in June, thanks to £600 collected by Toc H in January . . .

Toc H was one of many local charities to receive a slice of the £4,500 raised by the Peterborough Evening Telegraph at an annual event during August Bank Holiday weekend.

Wolverton recently celebrated their diamond jubilee with a social attended by friends both inside and outside Toc H; they also took a party of more than 100 mentally handicapped people to a pantomime . . .

Acton Toc H blind social club held their New Year party in February, because it cheers people up when things are a bit dull . . .

Toc H Trustee Betty Cornick spoke on love to nearly 70 guests at Bournemouth and Christchurch Branch's eleventh birthday . . .

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £9 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Folkestone. Les and Mary Tripp offer homely, personal service. Reasonable terms. Families welcome. Claremont Private Hotel, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DQ. Tel: 0303 54897.

Weymouth. bed, breakfast, evening meal from £48 week. Weekend breaks from £14.50. Bar, free parking. Also inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £80 week. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Ballestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Mallorca. Mountain village holiday in historic Valldemosa. Fully modernised 15th century house sleeps up to six. Available from 1 May. Minimum stay two weeks. Full particulars from owner: Mrs Gillian Barnett, 21B Canfield Gardens, London NW6. Tel: 01 624 5805.

Clacton - 6 berth Caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities include, pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. May/June - £45 pw, July - £50 pw, August - £60 pw, September - £45 pw. Full details from Mrs M Burgess, 6 Upper Park Road, Clacton-on-Sea. Tel: 0255 429428. SAE please.

North Wales. Happy family hotel, children welcome. H & C all rooms. Two minutes sandy beach and shops. Easy reach North Wales beauty spots and Snowdonia National Park. Parties welcome. SAE brochure: 'The Dolphin', 4 Paradise Crescent, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6AR. Tel: 0492 622223.



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A Swiss Pastor is looking for volunteers - unpaid - who would help by translating Bible studies from English into French or German. Please write to: Pastor Henry Hottinger, Box 7, 1211 Geneva 18, Switzerland.

Help yourself and use Point Three

Every month the Movement's magazine produces pages of extension news, bright ideas, new personalities, fund raising successes, overseas information, and much more.

It's the best way of knowing exactly what is going on and all for only 10p.

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To: Toc H Publications Department,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Send me copies of **POINT THREE** each month for one year, starting with the next issue.

I enclose cheque/postal order for made payable to Toc H. (£1.20 for one annual subscription - Any contributions towards postage gratefully accepted.)

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